

# RHC CONSOLIDATION

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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CHOICE

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) supports the preferences and choices of individuals and families to live in, contribute to, and participate in their communities. This includes providing individualized supports and services directed by consumers that allow them to make choices and realize their greatest potential.

With consolidation of the Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs), DDD will ensure that the choices and circumstances of individuals and their families will be recognized and honored. DDD will implement efforts that are flexible and responsive so that these choices are respected, families are supported, and individuals can live in safe and healthy environments.

### Making a Choice of Where to Live

RHC residents and their families will be offered the following choices of living options. This includes:

- ***Living in a home or apartment in the community of choice supported by a contracted Supported Living provider.*** With this option, individuals could live in the community where their family members live, if an agency is available. This option also includes:
  - Qualified staff to meet the individual's needs, 24 hours a day if needed;
  - Opportunity for employment or other day activities;
  - Choice of residential providers; and
  - Participation in the *Roads to Community Living* grant project, if desired.
- ***State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA)***
  - Living in an apartment or house in a designated community;
  - Qualified state employees staff the living arrangement to meet the individual's needs, 24 hours a day if needed;
  - Opportunity for employment or other day activities; and
  - Participation in the *Roads to Community Living* grant project, if desired.

Note: This option may be limited due to availability of openings in SOLA and appropriate roommate matches.
- ***Two other Residential Habilitation Centers***
  - Fircrest, located in Shoreline (north of Seattle); and
  - Lakeland Village, located in Medical Lake (southwest of Spokane).

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In order to make an informed decision about living options, the following resources will be available to individuals and their families:

- A designated staff at each RHC and in each region who can answer any questions;
- A person-centered plan to ensure the needs of both the individual and the family are identified and met, and all available options are known;
- Families and individuals who have moved from an RHC to the community who can share their experiences;
- Opportunities to visit programs and make informed choices about which option is best for the person; and
- Living arrangements developed so that when people move to a new situation, they live with people who are compatible and they have the chance to keep old friends or make new ones.

## Meeting the Preferences and Needs of Each Person

To recognize and respect individual and family choice, each individual will have a person-centered plan. This plan will involve the individual, the individual's family, people who know the person well, and others who can help develop the services and resources that meet the needs and desires of the person. The person-centered plan will:

- Identify the personal characteristics of the person – individual capacities, preferences, and needs;
- Develop the living option and supports that meet the preferences and needs of the person;
- Ensure that the staff employed in the new living option are either involved in this planning process or become knowledgeable about the person's capacities, preferences, and needs;
- Include local school districts and county programs so that each person is able to learn and have an opportunity to participate in and contribute to the community where he/she lives;

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- Identify action steps for making this plan a reality for the person and the person's family; and
- Include a process to follow up on what's working well and what issues need to be addressed to ensure the person's preferences and needs are being met once the person has moved into his/her new living situation.

## Contact Information:

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